

SERVICE DATE - JULY 19, 2004

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1184X)

CONSOLIDATED RAIL CORPORATION—ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION—IN  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NJ

Decided: July 15, 2004

Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—Exempt Abandonments to abandon a portion of a line of railroad known as the Sayreville Running Track, between milepost 10.85± and milepost 11.31± in the Township of North Brunswick, Middlesex County, NJ, a distance of 0.46± miles. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on January 5, 2004 (69 FR 389-90).

By decision served on February 2, 2004 (February 2004 decision), the proceeding was reopened at the request of the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) and the exemption was made subject to the condition that Conrail retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of the line and all sites and structures on the line until the completion of the section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f. By letter dated June 22, 2004, the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) submitted comments to SEA stating that the proposed abandonment will have no adverse effect upon historic properties. Therefore, based on the SHPO's comments, SEA recommends that the historic preservation condition imposed in the February 2004 decision be removed. Accordingly, the proceeding will be reopened and the previously imposed historic preservation condition will be removed.

This decision will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. This proceeding is reopened.
2. Upon reconsideration, the section 106 historic preservation condition imposed in the February 2004 decision is removed.

3. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary